

Appl. No. 10/549,561  
 Amendment and/or Response  
 Reply to Office action of 4 December 2006

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REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

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By this Amendment Applicants amend claims 1-6 and add new claim 11. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 11 are pending in the application.

Applicants acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 2-5 define patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and to overcome the objection to claim 1. Applicants also acknowledge the indication that claim 6 defines patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and the claim objection.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the following Remarks.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Office Action objects to language throughout claims 1 and 6 that recites "especially" and "in particular," etc.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 6 to remove this objected-to language.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 1-6 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, stating that the recitation "any additional transistors" is unclear.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 6 to recite "all further transistors whose resistance values are to be controlled, as applicable." This language mirrors the language in claim 2, which was not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the language "all further transistors whose resistance values are to be controlled, as applicable" is definite, precisely specifying that these are the transistors which are regulated by the control voltage, as recited in the claim preamble ("A method of controlling the resistance value of one

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*or more MOS transistors").* Regarding the question in the Office Action about transistors within the buffers, inverting amp and comparators, Applicants respectfully submit that these are clearly not transistors whose resistance values are to be controlled, as recited in the claim preamble.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

#### 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Shor et al. U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0076159 ("Shor").

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Shor for at least the following reasons.

At the outset, as recited in amended claim 1, the arithmetic mean is taken of the first offset and the second offset for approximating and reaching an optimum operating point. Applicants respectfully submit that Shor neither takes any such arithmetic mean, nor suggests any reason for doing so.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Shor does not disclose M5 as a first reference transistor having a first offset from the operating point and M5 as a second reference transistor having a second offset from the operating point equal in value but opposed in sign to the first offset.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Shor.

#### NEW CLAIM 11

By this amendment, Applicants add new claim 11.

Among other things, the device of claim 11 includes a comparator adapted to compare a fourth voltage produced from a voltage drop across a resistor, with an arithmetic mean of the first and third voltages produced from first and second reference elements, and a condenser having a terminal connected to an output of the comparator. The comparator is adapted to charge and discharge a control

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voltage at the terminal of the condenser in response to the comparison of the fourth voltage and the mean of the first and third voltages, and the control voltage is provided to a control terminal of each of the one or more MOS transistors whose resistance values are to be controlled, and to control terminals of the first and second reference transistors.

Applicants respectfully submit that Shor clearly does not disclose any device, including such a combination of features.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Shor.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 1-6 and 11, and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (571) 283.0720 to discuss these matters.

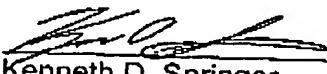
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment (except for the issue fee) to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE & WHITT

Date: 5 March 2007

By:

  
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